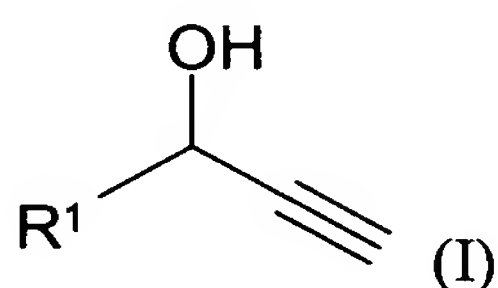


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A continuous process for preparing a propargyl alcohol of the formula I



in which R¹ is a C₁₋₃₀-alkyl, ~~C₃₋₈-cycloalkyl, C₂₋₂₀-alkoxyalkyl, C₆₋₁₄-aryl, C₇₋₂₀-alkoxyaryl, C₇₋₂₀-aralkyl, C₇₋₂₀-alkylaryl~~ radical or H branched on the α-carbon atom, which comprises reacting a corresponding aldehyde of the formula R¹-CHO with acetylene in the presence of ammonia and a catalytic amount of an alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal hydroxide or alkali metal alkoxide in the range from 0.6 to 10 mol% based on the aldehyde used.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at temperatures in the range from 0 to 50°C.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the reaction is carried out at absolute pressures in the range from 1 to 30 bar.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the aldehyde and the acetylene are used in a molar ratio in the range of aldehyde:acetylene [[=]] of from 1:1 to 1:10.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalytic amount of alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal

- hydroxide or alkali metal alkoxide is in the range from 1 to 10 mol% based on the aldehyde
- used.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, wherein R¹ is a C₄₋₁₀-alkyl ~~or phenyl~~ radical branched on the α -carbon atom.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 5,
wherein R¹ is ~~n-pentyl or 3-heptyl~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, wherein conversion to propargyl alcohol is effected by simultaneously metering a
stream comprising acetylene and ammonia, a stream comprising the aldehyde and a stream
comprising the alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal hydroxide or alkali metal
alkoxide into a reactor.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~
claim 1, wherein the alkoxide is a C₁₋₄-alkoxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein the alkali metal is sodium or potassium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal is magnesium or calcium.

- Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of the preceding~~
- ~~claims~~ claim 1, wherein the alkali metal alkoxide or metal hydroxide is dissolved or
suspended in an alcohol.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein the
alkali metal alkoxide is dissolved or suspended in the alcohol ~~which~~ that corresponds to the
alkoxide by protonation.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled).